

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -  
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules  
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,  
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I very strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become much, much more limited.

The FCC was created to regulate media and assure all people have a voice. The FCC must assure that voices of dissent will be heard so that open debate can occur. Debate of many possibilities will lead our nation to the best answers.

In the supreme Court case - Associated Press v. United States No. 57 Argued December 5, 6, 1944 Decided June 18, 1945

The Supreme Court decided that the First Amendment "rests on the assumption that the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the public, that a free press is a condition of a free society." They said the government should not impede the free flow of press. "Freedom to publish means freedom for all, not for some. The freedom to publish is guaranteed by the Constitution, but the freedom to combine to keep others from publishing is not."

I urge you not to let this deregulation of media to occur. If there is any deregulation of media, please, set aside frequencies specifically for public use and limit the amount of frequencies that can be licensed by corporations. Also, cross ownership is a very dangerous situation. How would you like it if I owned your local television stations, radio stations, newspapers, magazines, internet access, cable lines, wireless communications, etc? How would you like it if the only opinion you could

find anywhere was mine and that if you did not want to support me, you had no choice because I have a monopoly on the cable lines, telephone lines and other forms of communication in your area?

Also please stop subsidizing the large media corporations and start doing all you can do provide for a diverse and rich media where all people can voice their opinions. This is not a matter of free enterprise, this is a matter of free speech.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. As a US citizen and Son of the American Revolution, I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

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